

# The Athenian Mercury.

Friday, June 4. 1697.

Quest. 1. **W**HY are not Fishes, subject to many Maladies, as Terrestrial Creatures are?

Ans. 'Tis, because they are in an Element more pure than the Earth: For the Earth is much more Composed of mix'd Bodys, than the Water.

Quest. 2. Why are those who are Sick of a Dropsy, altho they are full of waters and humours, yet cannot quench their Thirst by Drinking?

Ans. 'Tis, because they digest not their Drink, (even when they are feaverish) it becomes Hot, Salt, and Mordicant, which makes them to have an unextinguishable Thirst. And altho, that their belly be full of Water and Humidity, which finding no vent, and for want of other Distribution, the other parts of the Body become dry, and from this droughth proceeds their extream Thirst.

Quest. 3. Wherefore do the Bodys of Drowned Persons return again upon the Water, some days after; And particularly, as some have observed on the 9th Day?

Ans. Some say, that Nine Days after the Body is drowned and sunk under Water, the Gall breaks, and that the bitter Liquor thereof contained therein, being Evacuated, the Body doth Rise upon the Water; others hold, that the Gall breaks not, but that all the parts of the Body being made rare and thin by the wetness of the Water, and the gross humours Evacuated, it becomes supple, and swims on the Water some days after it is drowned. But it seems to be rather, from the Cause of Winds that are engender'd in the Films, or Membranes, which cover the Intestines of the Belly, (called by the Physicians, *Omentum* and *Peritoneum*) as the excessive swelling of their Bellies do Demonstrate; For all Corruption is engendred of Heat, and Heat dissolving Humidity, Winds are Engendred: Which reason is subtilly related by Cardan.

Quest. 4. Wherefore is it, that the drowned Bodys of Men swim on their Backs, and those of Women on their Bellies?

Ans. To Attribute this, as some have done to the Providence of Nature, willing to cover the mo'lest parts of one Sex, more than the other, doth seem to be a Modest, but a light Reason; And therefore it may better be said, that the Cause is from the difference of the parts, of the one from the other. For Women have the Vessels of the Body, before, more Ample, Large, and Copacious than Men have, as the Natural Parts and Passages for the Urine. Which is the Reason they are less subject to the Stone, &c. Besides, that their Breasts being spongy, become seasoned with much Water; which doth press down

ward, and aggravates the lower parts of their Bodys; It being certain, that the most heavy parts tend downwards. On the contrary Men have their Shoulders more great and large than Women, and the Bones and Connection of the Vert. more firm, by reason of which, those parts tend downward. Besides, they have the Organs, and Passage of the Voice, and the breathing more large, (as it may appear by the deepness and strength of their Voice) which being filled with Air, it lifteth up the forepart of their Bodys, their Face towards Heaven, and their Back towards the Water.

Quest. 5. Wherefore do Drunkards seem sometimes to see doubly the same Object?

Ans. 'Tis, because that Humidity doth diversily affect the Muscles of the Eyes, in so much that one is more Closed than the other, or else, according to the Phylosopher, the reason of this is, that it seems to those who are drunk, that all things turn round because their Brain is troubled; by reason of which, for one only Object, they think they see two, or more; For 'tis certain, that a Body turned round with quickness, doth not seem one, but many, because, it returns suddenly, and represents it self often to our sight.

Quest. 6. Why is it, that those who have drank a great quantity of Wine, are afterwards very Thirsty?

Ans. Because, Wine taken immoderately over-heats the Body, by which Adventitious and strange Heat, it makes it to desire moist and cold things, and such is Drink.

Quest. 7. Wherefore are such, who are too much charged with Wine and Meat, Indisposed in Venus Combats?

Ans. 'Tis, because their Digestion and Concoction, is tardily; and not easily made, by which means they are furnished with little Seed; And that which was in the Body before, is not so apt to move, because the Body is Bound, and Constipated by the too much repletion of Meat and Drink, and the Natural heat so much imploy'd in the Concoction thereof.

Quest. 8. Wherefore are Labourers sooner Drunk, than those that live a Sedentary and Lazy Life?

Ans. Because, Labourers are ordinarily dry and thirsty, Labour and Exercise drying up their Humours, but those that are sedentary and lazy, their body being more humid, do thirst less, and altho they should make some excess in Drinking, their Bodys would not so easily be soaked and imbued, as if it were dry, so that they discharge more by Urine, and are less Drunk.

Quest.



Quest. 9. *Wherefore do Drunkards weep easily?*

Ans. Because, they have their Head full of Fumes and Vapours, which contracted together, do discharge themselves by Running out at the Eyes, on the least occasion, or trouble, Veritable, or Imaginary.

Quest. 10. *Why have Drunkards, ordinarily, their Eyelids very Red?*

Ans. Because the fumes of the Wine, do ascend from the Stomach to the Head, partaking of the Natural Heat of the Urine, do affect the Eyes and Eye-lids also; By some boyling Humour and Fluxion; The Eyes being parts, very delicate and more easie to be affected.

Quest. 11. *Wherefore is it, that those that are drunk with Wine mixed with Water, have more Crudities of Stomach, and find themselves more Loaden, than those who drank pure Wine only?*

Ans. Because pure Wine is more Hot, and Contributes more to its own perfect digestion, then when it is mixed with water.

Quest. 12. *Wherefore are those that are Tippled only, or a little Drunk, more Foolish and Toyish than those that are very Drunk?*

Ans. Because, they have only the Judgment, Lightly stirred and troubled, but the others have the senses totally depraved, and can neither Judge ill or well.

Quest. 13. *Why do those who are Drunk, stammer and stutter in speaking?*

Ans. Because, that the Tongue being by Nature Spongy, is easily imbued with too much Humidity, by the excess of drinking, and becomes heavy, and as it were Flat, inso-much that it cannot distinctly pronounce and express the Conceptions of the Mind, with a Voice neatly articulate; Besides that, the trouble of the Mind, made so by the Wine, is a co-operating Cause.

Quest. 14. *Why are the great and Famous Drinkers less robust and strong than sober persons?*

Ans. Because by moistning and wetting themselves so much, they become more soft and effeminate; besides, the Heat of the Wine, which is not natural, doth stifle in them, or at least infeeble the natural Heat.

Quest. 15. *Why are those who are born Deaf, are also Dumb?*

Ans. Some say 'tis a certain Connection and Conjunction of the Nerves, that do spread themselves to the Ears, and to the Tongue, the which being Indisposed from the Beginning, 'twill necessarily follow, that both those two Faculties will be equally affected. And yet it may be nevertheless confessed and granted, that some Maladys may cause Deafness, without Dumbness, or on the contrary, there may be a Dumbness without Deafness, because, that one Branch of the Nerves may be offended, and not the other; And without more ado, we may conclude that he that is Born Deaf, having heard never any to speak, could never Learn to do it, altho 'tis true, they are able to make some Inarticulate Noise.

An I D E A of Mr. Turner's History of the most Remarkable Providences which have hapned in this Present Age, lately Publish'd.

THE Materials which the Author has made use of, are the Best Authors who wrote before him on that Subject, and the Manuscripts and Informations of such Persons of Note (now living) as were pleas'd to Communicate fit matter to him, of whom he hath very Ingeniously exhibited a Catalogue at the End of his Introduction, besides the Great Number of other Persons, and Modern books, that he cites throughout the Work.

The Method he follows, is to rank every thing under its proper Head, of which there are 150 in the first Part, that may most properly be called, *The History of Providence*. There are 56 Heads in the 2d Part, which contain the Wonders of Nature, and 17 Heads in the 3d, which give an Account of the Curiousities of Art, and all those subdivided into Particular Instances; many of which are new and extraordinary, and upon the whole, it must be owned to be the most Compleat Collection of the Kind that is extant, and cannot but be useful and entertaining to Men of all Parties and Capacities. Mr. Turner is very happy in his Introductory Prefaces to every distinct Head, wherein he does express the meaning and design of that Head clearly and concisely, by such General Observations and Truths, as no Party of Christians can well convert.

His First Chapter treats concerning the Appearance and Manifestation of God himself in the World.

His Chapters of the Appearances of Good and bad Angels, &c. Containing the Marrow of all that pleasant and diverting Part of History, that is to be found in other Authors, besides many NEW INSTANCES never before publish'd; which are enough to convince the Scepticks and Atheists of the Age; the same may be said as to his Chapters of the Appearance of separate Souls, the discovery of Secrets, or things to come by Audible Voices, Signs, Sounds, Dreams, Visions, and Impulses, &c.

His disquisition upon the Urim, Thummim, Teraphim, &c. Is Curious and Learned; His Premonitions of General, or Particular Changes and Accidents of Life, &c. Is of the like Nature. And his Instances of strange Conversions and Conversions, (particularly that late instance Mr. fo. Studly, a Kentish Gentleman, sent to him by a worthy Person now living in Hogsdon-square) are surprising. At the End of this Chapter is added, A Remarkable Account of the Conversions of several Indians, with the dying Speeches of 8 of them; as Publish'd by the Reverend Mr. Eliot, the First Preacher of the Gospel to the Heathen Indians in America. These Relations were sent to Mr. Turner, by a Friend of his that brought them with him, from Boston in New England; and are so great a RARITY, that 'twas with great difficulty he procured them in New England (where they were Printed) neither was there a Copy of them to be found in London.

To the Chapter of Remarkable Zeal is annexed Mr. Allyn's Evidences for Heaven (subscrib'd by Mr. Calamy and two other Divines, as sufficient Grounds of assurance for Heaven); these Evidences were never printed before, and are of great use to direct us throughout the whole course of our Lives.

In short, here is fit entertainment for Persons of all sorts, and in all conditions, many late Instances to encourage PIETY AND DEVOTION, several Chapters of Remarkable Judgments upon Sins of all sorts, to deter the wicked from their mischievous Practices.

The Author hath particularly provided for the CURIOUS in his Accounts of LAST WILLS, which are remarkable either for the singularity of themselves, or of the Testators, and it cannot chuse but be an acceptable Entertainment to see here the LAST WILLS of Calvin and Bellarmine, the two Great Antesignani of their several Parties; by which the difference of the Spirits, with which they were Acted is very discernable. This Chapter also contains the Modern Wills of the most eminent Persons that have dyed in this present Age; no less diverting is Mr. Turner's Collection of odd Epitaphs, and there's no doubt, but the Chapter containing the Memorable speeches and sayings of the late Q. Mary, from her Birth down to the time of her Death, will be very acceptable, as will the Chapter of those Executed in K. James's time.